

Summary of Watershed-Based Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting

Aug. 17, 2004, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Natural Resources Building Room 175B, Olympia

IMPORTANT! See task assignment for subcommittee members later in this document!
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Meeting began at 10:00

Attendees:

Annie Szvetcz (Ecology); Peter Birch, Bob Zeigler, Margen Carlson, and John Carleton (Fish and Wildlife); Jay Udelhoven (Natural Resources); Carrie Berry, Barb Aberle, Dick Gersib, Gary Davis, and Tim Hilliard (Transportation); Phil Miller (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office); Darrel Phare (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission); Bob Wubbena (EES); Kate Stenberg (US Army Corps of Engineers).

Updates:

Carrie Berry introduced Barb Aberle, the new TPEAC Implementation Manager. Barb will report to Carrie. She brings with her many years of management experience in a wide variety of positions at various agencies. Most recently, she has managed the Alternative Mitigation Program at WSDOT.

Dick Gersib and Tim Hilliard provided a brief update on the I-405 / SR-522 watershed characterization project. The "integration" meeting, a major milestone in the process, has been completed. The team is on schedule for a September completion. Dick highlighted the work done on a wetland restoration sites database as an example of the scale and comprehensiveness of the work. He also gave an informative discussion of what is being done to analyze habitat fragmentation using the "FRAGSTATS" program. Tim mentioned an upcoming meeting to help hammer out some of the methodology for site prioritization; he promised to inform the subcommittee when the meeting is arranged. Dick emphasized that part of his goal is to avoid a "black box" approach – he wants the process totally transparent.

Policy and Pilot Projects SR 539 and US 12 – Bob Wubbena

Bob Wubbena discussed several issues. See handouts attached.

First he addressed the feedback that came since the last meeting. They will restructure the test questions to identify specific outcomes; add evaluation questions; identify different objectives for different stakeholders; and divide what had been called technical issues into technical and policy issues.

Next he briefly talked about how they plan to make the reporting more usable by using the "Tell a Story" process.

He agreed to add a paragraph in the introduction that manages expectations and discusses the limited time frame to answer questions for each project.

Then he went into the specific proposed test questions in detail. These were divided into five categories:

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1. Unified Schedule / Decision Reports
2. Watershed Characterization / Conceptual Mitigation Strategy
3. Common Permit Process
4. Performance Based Approach
5. Summary – IMG Framework

The test questions were discussed in detail, with many suggested changes. Some of the people wanted a chance to work on this issue on paper and respond to Rick Anderson so it was decided to give everyone one week to revise and comment on the questions, then respond directly to Rick.

TASK: Review, revise, and comment on the “IMG Test Questions” on page 2 of Bob Wubben’s handouts from today’s meeting (attached).

DUE: Close of business Aug. 24.

Send to: Rick Anderson, at Economic and Engineering Services (EES) His e-mail is randerson@ees-1.com.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 21, in Room 175A of the Natural Resources Building. Potential subjects for that meeting are:

- IMG discussion (continued) with Rick Anderson
- Tim Smith’s Mitigation Optimization Effort
- The Governor’s watershed mitigation effort
- The DNR’s proposed mitigation banking legislation

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 12:30 PM